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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Sir, have the Government considered the composite scheme submitted by the All-India Siddha Vaidbya Sangam for the establishment of a separate Siddha Research Institute with a hospital attached to it, in our State? Will the Government take further action in this matter in the light of the Bangalore Conference of the States' Health Ministers?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : There is a research centre at Jamnagar, where all these indigenous systems of medicine—Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani—are under research. Here in Madras, certain beds are allotted for carrying on research on certain specific diseases like asthma, diabetes, whooping caugh, etc. In these circumstances, let us watch and see the results. Then we can think of other steps.

SRI A. GAJAPATHY NAYAGAR : May I know, Sir, whether the 'Siddha Section' will be transferred to Madras from Jamnagar? We can do more genuine 'Siddha' research here.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, all the indigenous systems are under research there, and it will be an advantage to compare notes. Instead of transferring that section to this place, the question of having a separate and upgraded section here may be thought of.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Sir, will it not have the advantage of Sri A. Gajapathy Nayagar's supervision here? (Laughter.)

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, is it not a fact that in most of the conferences held in the State of Madras for the promotion of all these systems of medicine, the Minister for Health either presides over those conferences or inaugurates or blesses, and, in fact, accepts all the proposals, but that when it comes to the question of concrete steps, the position remains the same as it was two or three years ago?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : So that he may have more occasions to preside over conferences. (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The hon. Member has failed to mention one other thing, namely, that in addition to inaugurating and presiding over such conferences, the Minister also takes 'Siddha' medicines. (Renewed laughter.)

Publication of the Siddha Works

* 116 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal before the Government for the collection and publication of the unpublished Siddha works; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands and the amount, if any, allotted for this purpose?

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) A suggestion in the matter by the hon. Member is under consideration.

(b) Proposals are awaited from the Director of Medical Services.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. Minister tell us what the Siddha works pending publication before the Government are, and also whether the necessary staff has been appointed for bringing out those publications?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Notice, Sir.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. Minister kindly enlighten us on what are the arrangements made at present to recover the Siddha vaidhya literature, which is mostly in palmyra manuscript and with private individuals?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I already said that suggestions were awaited from the Director of Medical Services, and I presume that mostly we will get the information from the palmyra leaves.

Overbridge at Covelong

* 117 Q.—VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the construction of the overbridge at Covelong in Chingleput taluk has been completed;

(b) if so, the length and breadth of the bridge and the expenditure incurred for its construction;

(c) whether buses are allowed to pass through that bridge to reach Covelong; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The length of the bridge is 76 feet and the breadth is 12 feet. The length of the bridge including approaches is 1,288 feet and the total expenditure incurred on the construction of the bridge is Rs. 3,26,542.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Diploma holders from Polytechnics

* 118 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any disparity in the pay scales of L.C.Es. and L.S.Es. (diploma-holders from Polytechnics) employed by the Government and by the Local Bodies; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?